



Key Messaging on the 2007 Farm Bill

California has the largest urban population in the nation and is the largest agricultural producer and exporter. California also grows 52 percent of the nation's fruits, nuts and vegetables and out produces 22 of the smallest states combined. However, California has never gotten its fair share of resources under the federal farm bill.

The California congressional delegation is the largest state delegation, representing 14 percent of the House vote. Together this delegation can bring forward a unified voice that will create a California friendly farm bill. This means tailoring the farm bill to meet California's needs. By voting together, we create a stronger, healthier California.

The farm bill affects every Californian. The farm bill is a targeted investment that enhances the health of our communities and environment and continues to provide a safe, dependable and affordable food supply. It is nutrition dollars going into your schools and communities, research dollars going to your universities, lower cost electricity and transportation fuels for your economy, and solutions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating air and water pollution for your residents.

In addition to calling this a *farm bill*, we should call this a *food bill* or a *public health bill*. Fifty-four percent of farm bill spending goes toward nutrition programs, 11 percent goes toward conservation programs, and 9 percent goes toward research, rural development and international programs.

Leaders with courage, character and vision can truly make a change in the farm bill. Our Congressional representatives can make this change. Please urge your Congressional representative to invest in California.

For more information on the 2007 farm bill or to help secure its passage, please contact farmbill@cdfa.ca.gov or visit the CDFA farm bill website at www.cdfa.ca.gov/farmbill07. On the CDFA farm bill website we have provided a sample letter to the editor or to a Congressional representative (for your adaptation). We encourage original letters.